



NO. 53

| [www.harlanfamily.org](http://www.harlanfamily.org)

Fall 2018

## HARLAN FAMILY HERITAGE TOUR - SPRING 2018

Earlier this year a lucky handful of Harlans took a Heritage tour to discover some of their Harlan roots in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. There were Harlans, Harlan in-laws, some outlaws and one “Harlan by house” (Kate “Tolly” Roby, who lives in the Thomas Harlan house on Stargazer Road in Coatesville PA). We had spouses, cousins and sisters. Our guide was a great Irish fellow named Gearoid O’Caoimh (pronounce Gah-rohd O’Keefe) and our driver in England was a humorous fellow named Simon Markham (definitely a favorite for our group).

After meeting up in Manchester, England and having dinner together that night, our first destination was York. On our first day out and about we went to Harewood House and toured the house and grounds. Thomas Chippendale was commissioned to make the furniture for this house and it was magnificent. However, Thomas died before the house and furniture were completed, so his son Thomas Jr. finished the work. One thing I particularly liked were the curtains in the gallery--they were carved from pinewood and looked just like velvet. The servants’ quarters and service area were downstairs. The kitchen was unbelievable with copper pots everywhere. Harewood House is where the kitchen scenes from the PBS series “Victoria” are filmed.



*The kitchen at Harewood House*

The grounds were stunning as well on this rainy first day. Then we were back to York where we toured the York Minster--the cathedral in York. It was beautiful, but I was especially enthralled by the needlework on display and the attention to detail and color. That evening we attended the Evensong service and sat in the choir loft. The walk back to our hotel, through “the Shambles,” the oldest area of York and where several scenes from the Harry Potter movies were filmed, was highly entertaining.

The next day Tolly and I departed from the rest of our group, and had “Tolly and Nancy’s Big Adventure”. I had previously seen Sutton Hall and All Hallow’s Church, which were on the day’s agenda for the rest of the group. But I had always wanted to go back to Durham, where I had also been before. So Tolly and I took a train to Durham and toured the Durham Castle and the Durham Cathedral (lots of scenes from the Harry Potter movies were filmed at the Cathedral, as well).

There was a special service for Bede College taking place at the Cathedral. The voices and the acoustics were phenomenal, so I took my phone and filmed a little bit. The very kind gentleman waited until I had turned off the camera to tell me that filming was not allowed. When he heard my American accent, he said he had something to show Tolly and me that he thought we would enjoy. This gentleman was actually the man in charge of the service for the Cathedral and once the hundreds of people were ushered into the chapel for the Venerable Bede, he took Tolly and I on our own private tour of the Cathedral! It ended with my favorite thing in the Cathedral--a stained glass window called Daily Bread. It happened to be our guide’s favorite thing as well. It really was a very special day!

On Sunday we were off to St. Peter's Church in Monkwearmouth, Sunderland. This is the church where the records tell us George Harlan (3) was baptized. Unfortunately, we were disappointed that there were no church services that day, as there were church meetings going on elsewhere. There was a lady at the church who was cleaning and she set us up with coffee, tea and cookies and sold us a ton of "stuff" from their little gift shop while we waited for our guide to arrive. She also let us ring the church bells!! SO COOL! Finally our guide arrived, an elderly gentleman who had had to walk to the church. Now we had been there 1½ hours and we felt we had seen and done it all. He was disappointed we did not have more time to listen (he was quite the talker).

Then we were off to Fountain Abbey (below).



There are not sufficient words to describe the beauty of these ruins. The sun came out, the sky was blue, and the scenery was stunning. We then had a quick tour of the Ripon Cathedral and headed back to York.

The next day we departed for Liverpool. You know--Penny Lane, the Beatles, and all that. We also toured the Liverpool Cathedral, more modern and somewhat ostentatious, but there were some beautiful stained glass windows. Then we were off to Chester. We checked into the Queens Hotel, an older hotel that has been refurbished, which means a faucet for hot, another for cold, and no thermostats in the room! But it was lovely and the food was good. The town of Chester is great and was within walking distance, so we had a day to shop, walk atop the ancient Roman wall, and explore. It was Tolly's birthday, so we celebrated with a cake, prepared by the hotel, and

decorated with what looked like Roman candles. We don't have those in the states!



*Tolly with birthday cake, Pat Fluetsch, and Jill Hall*

Tuesday we were off for one of my favorite parts of the trip. We headed to Wales and the Conwy Castle. The drive over was beautiful and the castle and town were so much fun! We were on our own for the day, so we could climb to the top of the King's Tower in the Castle, or walk the walls, or explore the shops or have tea in a tearoom. We saw the smallest house in Great Britain (Tolly paid the £ (English pound) for the tour—there was only room for a few people at a time) and then we found Plas Mawr, Britain's finest townhouse from the Elizabethan era. It was so well appointed and preserved, quite a treat. They left part of the restoration work unfinished so you could better see how things were constructed back then. We found a pub for lunch and some Welsh "beverages".

On Wednesday we departed from the airport in Liverpool and flew to Belfast in Northern Ireland, where we picked up our new bus driver, Liam. I was in Belfast on a Hollingsworth/Harlan tour a few years ago and at that time, they were planning to redo the whole area where the Titanic was built. On this day I got to see the dream come to life. The Harland-Wolff Shipyard (something sound familiar there?) became famous for building the Titanic. From our perspective, the Titanic story is about the sinking of the ship. In Belfast, it is about the *building* of the ship. It provided employment for thousands and thousands of people. I was lucky to come upon a fellow whose family was among those who built the ship--he related stories handed down to him about the

actual construction of the ship. The whole Titanic Experience was amazing! Then off to St. Anne's Cathedral, where inside we found a machine gun turret from a WWI airplane, placed there for a special remembrance service. Churches in Europe really honor their military and contain many references and memorials to the ones who have served).

The next day was what I consider Family Heritage day. Years ago, my father John Harlan had corresponded with a gentleman from the Lurgan Meeting House--Arthur Chapman. Dad wanted to get more history about our family connections in Lurgan (which is where the Harlan brothers lived for those 10 years between leaving England and going to the New World). Now, nearly 30 years later, Arthur met us bright and early that morning and proceeded to take us on a tour of the whole Armagh, Bainbridge and Craigavon area, including tea with the Mayor Gareth Wilson. We went to Lynastown Quaker cemetery, and then to the Lurgan Meeting House. We then toured two more cathedrals. Lunch that day was at the Brownlee Manor and Tearoom and dinner was at pub in Belfast. The day ended at 9 pm, but Arthur, at age 90, still had a lot of pep in his step as he left to take the train home to Lurgan. He was my dinner companion and he was absolutely delightful.

Friday we were off to the North Coast and the Giant's Causeway. But first we detoured to the "Dark Hedges", one of the most photographed tunnels in the world. Both sides of the road are lined with beech trees, creating an eerie tunnel--quite impressive. The Giant's Causeway was another highlight of the trip. It is an area of about 40,000 basalt columns that were formed by ancient volcanic eruptions. The result is stunning. There are areas where the columns tower over you, and then other areas where you can walk over the tops of them. Being on the coast, the sea crashes over the rocks. We climbed up one trail, went around the cliff, and were treated to yet another stunning view. There are myths and legends about how the formation occurred, possibly by a giant's footsteps, hence the name "Giant's Causeway". It was breath taking scenery.

We had a final dinner that night with Gearoid at the Merchant Hotel. The food was fabulous and the company was even better. The next morning most everyone departed early. There were three of us who

departed later in the day, so we took the opportunity to go to the St. George's Market to shop for food and art, and to enjoy the wonderful sights and sounds. One of the music groups was the Willis Clan. Their music sounded Irish, but they are from Nashville! It was a treat to listen to them.



As with most trips, the real joy was in meeting and getting to know some more of my extended family. We came from every corner of the U.S., but we are all friendly and lovable Harlans. Well, except for Tolly Roby, but she fit right in and we readily adopted her! Pictured above, on the northern coast of Ireland, are our guide Gearoid, Joe Hannon, Carolyn Schelkopf, Judy Cabrera, Janice White (front), Tolly Roby (far back), LaRena Hannon, Mary Harlan Murphy, Linda Williams, Pat Fluetsch, Jill Hall, Nancy Gooding, Dorothy Sperry, Denise and Bob Walters, Joye and John Kohl, Debby and Tony Harlan. We had a great time and I would love to see more people interested in discovering their Harlan Heritage!

*Nancy Gooding*

*(Editor's Note)* While Nancy and Tolly were galavanting to Durham, the rest of the tour group enjoyed a lovely day in the village of Sutton on the Forest. While waiting for Sutton Park to open, we strolled the streets, enjoying the quaint, neat brick houses and flower gardens, and I even got to meet the local postman. An early owner of Sutton Park (then known as Sutton Hall) was Richard Harland, who in 1650 compounded his estates there. In 1750 the Elizabethan house was pulled down and the present one built by Philip Harland (1707-1766) and his wife Elizabeth.



The house is a fine example of an early Georgian Mansion. Across the street, in Sutton Hallows Church, are the remains and large memorial plaques of several generations of Harlands who had lived in Sutton Hall. The church has arrow marks on the exterior, still visible from archery practice after Sunday services during the Wars of the Roses (civil wars in England from 1455-1485).

## CONTRIBUTORS TO THE HARLAN FAMILY IN AMERICA

*Donations received since 3/1/18*

CA Leilani Harlan Pivaroff  
FL Becky Hines  
SC David Feron

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### HARLAN FAMILY IN AMERICA

**President** - Pat Fluetsch  
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### CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE

(3/1/18) **\$ 7,619.91**

### INCOME

Donations \$ 775.00  
Cookbook Sales \$ 251.53

**TOTAL INCOME \$ 1,026.53**

### DISBURSEMENTS

Harlan-Lincoln House \$ 500.00  
Chester County Historical Society \$ 125.00  
Spring Newsletter \$ 1,442.26  
Museum of American Revolution \$ 55.00  
Cookbook Expenses \$ 14.61

### TOTAL

**DISBURSEMENTS \$ 2136.87**

### CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE

(9/1/18) **\$ 6,509.57**

**CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT \$ 4,049.26**

**NET WORTH \$ 10,558.83**

### REMEMBRANCE FUND

*In memory of...*

**Faye Harlan Brooks**  
by LeEtta Wilson (CO)  
**Enoch Lewis Harlan, Jr.**  
by Susan H. Taylor (PA)  
**James Norman Harlan**  
by Dorothy Harlan (MO)  
**Virginia Harlan Hess**  
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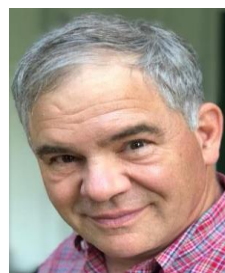
## TEN FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT “*THE HARLAN RECORD*”

- 1) The board members, editors, and contributors sincerely hope you have enjoyed reading this 53<sup>rd</sup> issue of *The Harlan Record*.
- 2) This historical newsletter has been published and mailed to Harlan family members for 30 years, having begun only five months after the first modern-day national reunion in 1987.
- 3) Our editor, Dorothy Harlan Sperry, spends many hours preparing each issue of the Harlan Record. Gerry Harlan Lundgren spends approximately 8 hours twice a year updating the snail mail and email mailing lists.
- 4) The cost of printing each issue is approximately \$1,159.24, and the cost of mailing via the U.S. Postal Service to over 1,664 households is about \$283.00. Therefore, the total cost for one year of printing and mailing *The Harlan Record* is almost \$3000!
- 5) But did you know that 338 households receive the newsletter electronically by email, which costs the family organization nothing?
- 6) A major way you could help the organization control expenses, would be to receive The Harlan Record electronically. That is, when the newsletter has been posted to the family website, you will receive an email notification that it is ready for viewing. If you prefer to read it on paper, rather than on your computer, you may print out the newsletter, and the pictures will even be in color, if you so choose.
- 7) Please consider changing your method of delivery of the newsletter from postal to electronic. Just email Gerry Harlan Lundgren ([gerrylun@myfmtc.com](mailto:gerrylun@myfmtc.com)) if you wish to make this change, providing your name, current mailing address, and new email address. Also, if you have an upcoming change of address or know of any relatives that have changed addresses, please send this information along to Gerry so she can update the mailing lists.
- 8) We have never charged membership dues for the Harlan Family in America, nor do we intend to do so

in the future. Newsletter costs are the biggest expense for the organization, other than the national reunions (see treasurer’s report on pg. 4). Donations to the organization must cover the cost of the newsletter, as well as other expenses incurred in the operation of the organization, and help offset the cost of our national reunions. Thus, donations are greatly appreciated and needed to keep our family organization strong.

9) If you would like to donate toward the expenses of the newsletter, or in general, please send your checks to “The Harlan Family in America, P.O. Box 333, Pleasant Unity, PA 15676.” You may also donate online through your Pay Pal account. Just go to the web page [www.harlanfamily.org/donation\\_page.html](http://www.harlanfamily.org/donation_page.html) (there is an ‘underline stroke’ between ‘donation’ and ‘page’). You may also access this website from the home page of the family website by clicking on the link “*Your contributions may be tax deductible.*” Next click on the yellow “Donate” button, log into your PayPal account, and click on the round blue “Send” button toward the top of the page. When prompted “Send money to”, enter the organization’s email address—[harlanfamilyinamerica@gmail.com](mailto:harlanfamilyinamerica@gmail.com). Enter the amount you wish to donate, then if it shows “Paying for an item or service” under the amount, click on the blue “Change” button, and select “Sending to a friend.” Next select how you want to pay, then continue until you reach the last button “Send Payments Now”, click on it and you’re done.

10) The Harlan Family in America is officially a tax-exempt organization. Your contributions may be tax deductible. EIN is 37-1784882.



At the board meeting in June, we welcomed Mike Harlan from Louisville, KY, who will be helping with the planning of the Lexington reunion. Mike attended his first national Harlan reunion in 1987 in Wilmington, DE as a child, and came to the Philadelphia reunion last year, bringing along his grown kids. Welcome aboard, Mike! We welcome your expertise and knowledge of the area.

## LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY—SITE OF REUNION 2022!

The Board has been tossing around a more southern location for a Harlan Family Reunion for several years. Lexington, Kentucky has been chosen as the site for the 2022 Harlan Family in America reunion. I am excited to be involved in planning the next reunion, with the help of Peggy Hewitt. I had made several scouting trips to Lexington prior to the Board meeting we had this past June. It is a wonderful city with lots to do and it is in the middle of horse and bourbon country.

You may not be aware, but the Board of the Harlan Family in America meets annually at the location of the next reunion. This is something the Board members do with their own time and money. This past June we stayed in downtown Lexington where we had our board meeting, toured a couple of hotels, checked out the Visitors' Bureau and got to eat out at several of the restaurants in the downtown area. Our goal is to get a good deal for families who want to come to the next reunion, but also to figure out fun things everyone will enjoy.

How did we choose Lexington? Well, the Battle of Blues Licks occurred near Lexington. Silas Harlan, a close friend and a soldier with Daniel Boone was in that battle. Harlan, Kentucky and Harlan County, Kentucky were named for Silas Harlan. I don't want to give too much away, because we are going to have an article soon that will tell you all about that!

I have discovered Lexington is a wonderful city with lots of exciting things to do. Over the next three years and several issues of the Harlan newsletter, I will highlight some of the things we have done. Lexington is the Horse Capital of the World and Kentucky is the birthplace of bourbon- the only spirit native to the U.S. There are all kinds of tours--walking tours, driving tours, horse farm tours, blue grass tours and distillery tours. The University of Kentucky is in Lexington, as well as the Kentucky Horse Park and Keeneland Race Track, where you can have breakfast while watching the trainers work the horses in their morning exercise. Nearby there is Berea, the arts and crafts capital of Kentucky (I have done some excellent shopping there!), the Shaker Village in

Harrodsburg and Blue Licks Battlefield State Park. The Ark Encounter is a short drive away. It is a "world class theme park and the most authentic replica of Noah's Ark in the world". Kentucky is tucked right under several midwestern states, so I hope to see a lot of new cousins make the short drive to join us.

Needless to say, we are a little excited about our next reunion. Do you live in or near Lexington? We would love to have some people with local knowledge join us in planning this reunion! Please contact me if you think you might be interested in helping!

*Nancy Gooding*  
[ngoodingrn@gmail.com](mailto:ngoodingrn@gmail.com)

Until the next reunion I plan to include recipes from Kentucky or including ingredients associated with Kentucky.

Growing up, every pound cake made with love had a little bourbon in it. This is the pound cake served in the reception area at the Philly reunion. It is so moist and delicious. I give the bourbon the credit. *Nancy*

### BOURBON POUND CAKE

3 sticks salted butter  
8 oz cream cheese  
3 cups of sugar  
6 eggs  
2 tsp vanilla  
2 Tbsp bourbon  
3 cups soft wheat flour (I use White Lily)  
Generous pinch of salt (mix this in with the flour)

Have the butter and cream cheese at room temperature (I leave them out on the counter overnight). Beat them together on medium speed for 2 minutes. Next, add the sugar gradually over 5-7 minutes. Then add the eggs, one at a time, beating only until the yolk disappears. Add the bourbon and vanilla. Reduce the mixer speed to low and add the flour and salt, beating in just until each addition is well blended. Place a two-cup ovenproof measuring cup full of water in the oven. Place the batter in a greased and floured Bundt pan, tube pan or two loaf pans and bake at 300° F for 1 hour 15 minutes, or until a toothpick or spaghetti noodle inserted into the center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack for 15 minutes before removing from pan. Cool completely.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I first heard about Harlan family tours to England and Ireland when I attended a board meeting 15 years ago. The people who had gone on the trips shared enthusiastically about new relationships forged and sites they visited which are significant to our family history. Each year at board meetings some of us would encourage Mary Murphy to plan another trip. Finally, that trip happened this past spring. I was fortunate enough to have been one of the eighteen in our Harlan group. You will read about many of our experiences in Nancy's article in this edition of the *Record* (see page 1).

Throughout my preparations, my day to day experiences and my story telling and picture gathering after the trip, the feeling of overwhelming **GRATITUDE** kept coming to me. Not only am I grateful for the experiences I had, but I am extremely grateful for getting to know the other Harlans on the trip. I came across this quote by Candace Cameron Bure: "The memories we make with our family are everything."

I am grateful to be part of this wonderful family organization. I looked up the definition of gratitude and found the word is defined as the quality of being thankful, readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness. I also found an article in "Psychology Today", April 3, 2015 entitled "Scientifically Proven Benefits of Gratitude". These benefits are:

1. Gratitude opens the door to more relationships
2. Gratitude improves physical health
3. Gratitude improves psychological health
4. Gratitude enhances empathy and reduces aggression
5. Grateful people sleep better
6. Gratitude improves self-esteem
7. Gratitude increases mental strength

Each of us has the ability and opportunity to cultivate gratitude. Take time each day to focus on all that you have and to be thankful for the people who surround you. May this daily dose of gratitude bring you much satisfaction.

*Pat Fluetsch*

## THE HARLAN RECORD

is published semiannually by  
**The Harlan Family in America**  
**P.O. Box 333 Pleasant Unity,**  
**PA 15676.**

It is a permanent organization established to document the historical contributions made by Harlans in America. Submissions of articles are welcome and are subject to editing and may be held for future use. Send articles to the Editor--Dorothy Harlan Sperry at [dorothysperry@mchsi.com](mailto:dorothysperry@mchsi.com) or mail to 3230 Kingman Rd., Ames, IA 50014. **To add or change your address for *The Harlan Record***, or to request an electronic copy via email, send the new information to:

**The Harlan Family in America**  
P.O. Box 333, Pleasant Unity, PA 15676 or email:  
[gerrylun@myfmmc.com](mailto:gerrylun@myfmmc.com). Current and previous issues of *The Harlan Record* are also available online at [www.harlanfamily.org](http://www.harlanfamily.org)

## JOIN THE HARLAN FAMILY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Are you searching for a long-lost cousin? Perhaps you just want to learn about the history of the Harlan Family. Did you know you can contact the Harlan Family in America via social media? In addition to our

website,  
[www.harlanfamily.org](http://www.harlanfamily.org),  
we also have a Facebook  
account and Twitter

account. To become part of our closed Facebook, go to:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/270599586289425/> or enter **The Harlan Family in America** in Search Facebook window. To follow us on Twitter, go to <https://twitter.com/theharlanfamily> or type '@theharlanfamily' into Twitter search.



## JACOB WRIGHT HARLAN'S CALIFORNIA 1846-1888

Jacob Wright Harlan was an eyewitness to history during his life. He fought for independence for California and took part in the great Gold Rush. At the urging of his family he wrote his memoir *Jacob Wright Harlan's California 1846-1888*.

One of his experiences was the Great Trek West. Born in Wayne County, Indiana, on October 14, 1828, Jacob made the trip to California with the ill-fated Donner party. When members of his group became stranded at Donner pass because of a blizzard and harsh winter weather, Jacob risked his life to traverse the mountains, secure supplies and return to the starving pioneers.

The following is an excerpt from Jacob's writing:

*"On the third day I met Stanton and Pike of the Reid and Donner party. They were going to Sutter's Fort for provisions and told me that the Donner party was over one hundred miles behind my company. I thought then what a Judas Tom Smith was, and asked if they were going to return and save the lives of the members of their company as I was doing for mine. Stanton declared that he would do so or die in the attempt. The poor man did keep his word and died in doing what he had promised. At Bear Valley, on the west side of the mountains, we met a part of Governor Boggs' party, and camped with them. I told them of the beautiful land where I had been and left them next morning full of desire to get there."*

The Harlan Family in America helped to reprint this book and an updated Harlan family history was added by Bruce Mowday in 2007. The result was *Eyewitness to the Settlement of the West: Jacob Wright Harlan's California 1846-1888*.

The original printing of the book was sold out, but in September of this year the publisher authorized another print run of 100 books. A part of the proceeds will go to The Harlan Family in America.

Book orders are being taken by Squire Cheyney Publishing. To purchase a book, send a check for \$23.00 for each book to:

Squire Cheyney Books  
P.O. Box 439  
Downingtown, PA 19335

## NINETY-PLUS CLUB

Three new members have been added to the 90+ Club. They are:

**LEONARD HARLAN**, who lives in Ft. Wayne, IN. He was born August 31, 1927. No biography was submitted

**DOLORES (DOLLY) FURLER McCORMACK**, who lives in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. She was born May 18, 1927. No biography was submitted.

**MARGARET HARLAN OLSON** was born January 17, 1928, in Ohio. She met her husband, Richard, while both were attending George Washington University. Richard worked for the U.S. Department of State and was assigned to embassies abroad for over a decade. After Richard's untimely death, Margaret became a member of the City Council, served on a YWCA Board, joined a book club, and became an active member of the Alumni Association of one of the colleges she attended. She also was an avid bridge player. She continues to be active. Margaret has three children and three grandchildren who live nearby. She lives in Bristol, TN.

There are now 16 people in the Ninety-Plus Club, and they receive an original birthday card each year from Ruth Harlan Lamb. Names and short bios of Ninety-Plus Club members are also listed on the Harlan website. If you have a family member you'd like recognized in the Ninety-Plus Club, please send their name, address, date of birth and a short bio to Ruth Harlan Lamb at [harlamb@aol.com](mailto:harlamb@aol.com). Address changes and other information may also be sent to Ruth via **The Harlan Family in America**, P.O. Box 333, Pleasant Unity, PA 15676.

All Harlan Family Cookbooks are **SOLD OUT**. Thank you for your participation in the two cookbooks, and your patronage in purchasing them for the benefit of the Harlan Family in America.



## CAN YOU HELP US? PLEASE?

The Harlan Family in America needs help with our web page design and website maintenance to supplement our current one-person volunteer staff. If you have web design skills and enjoy working with and maintaining websites, **YOU MAY BE WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR.** The commitment will only take a little time every month. Our site gets a lot of traffic, but it doesn't change very much over the months. If you are able and willing, please contact Fred Harlan at [fredharlan@verizon.net](mailto:fredharlan@verizon.net) to find out more.

Please **encourage anyone you know**—friends, children, grandchildren, other relatives—to consider putting their skills to work to provide a much-needed service to the family organization.

## A CALL FOR ARTICLES

I would like to fill the next newsletter (Spring '19) with as many articles as possible that are written in the first person, that is, in someone's own words.

**Every family has stories to tell.** Maybe you have old letters in the attic that tell of eyewitness accounts to events in history, battles, settling the West, the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918, the Dust Bowl years, or just ordinary, day-to-day living that give us a peek into the past. Or maybe one of your grandparents, or farther back, wrote down his/her own history or autobiography, and you could share a couple of pages from it. We are always looking for interesting articles about Harlan family members. Is there someone in your Harlan family who is contributing to the community in an interesting way? Do you have a relative who has excelled in their profession and would tell us about it? What is the story behind your multigenerational family business? Was a family member decorated for outstanding service in the military? The list of possibilities is endless. Talk to your family and see if you can come up with a first-person article for our next newsletter. As your editor, I'm always ready to help you develop your idea, and proofread and edit your article.

Remember, history is being made every day, somewhere, by a Harlan descendant!

*Dorothy Sperry,  
Editor*

## CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

Use this form to be added to our mailing list, update your contact information, request electronic copies of *The Harlan Record* or mail your contribution to The Harlan Family in America.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Current address \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Address addition/change/correction

☐ Please send newsletter via email

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Contribute to the Association

☐ Contribution to Remembrance Fund

I wish to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ In memory of ☐ In honor of

-----  
Make check payable to  
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SEND TO:

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P. O. Box 284, Lionville, PA 19353**

## BUILDERS OF THE TITANIC

Family members on the Harlan Family Tour of England and Ireland this past spring were delighted to tour the Titanic Belfast, which is built on the site of the Harland-Wolff Shipyards.

Belfast had been largely built on the success of the city's linen and cotton industries, but it was the success of its shipyards that was to position it as a global industrial giant. Commercial shipbuilding had been a feature of Belfast since the late 18th century, but it was the establishment of Harland and Wolff at the Queen's Island shipyard in the east of the city in 1861 that saw it really take off.

The Titanic was built many years after Harland's death, so he cannot be blamed for the disaster (the overconfidence of the Captain was the real culprit—no ship is unsinkable, especially when driven into icebergs), but perhaps you'd like to know a little more about Mr. Harland?

Sir Edward James Harland was born in the Yorkshire, England port of Scarborough in 1831, the 7<sup>th</sup> of ten children born to Dr. William and Anne Harland. Anne was the daughter of Gowan Pierson, of Goathland, Yorkshire. Though a doctor by training, William Harland was a renowned amateur mechanic himself, and even took out a patent for a steam carriage in 1827. Edward's mother also had a wonderful influence on the budding engineer. She was always "making things" and the children were employed as artisans in her projects.

Edward spent his childhood in and around ships of the coastal trade. At the age of twelve, he entered Edinburgh Academy, and later became an apprentice at the prestigious engineering works of Robert Stephenson and Company in Newcastle upon Tyne. In 1854, at the tender age of 22, he moved to Belfast, Ireland to manage the Queen's Island shipyard of Robert Hickson. There he earned a reputation for being a notorious stickler for detail—he carried an ivory ruler in his coat pocket to check every precise detail, and a piece of chalk to mark anything that did not come up to his exacting standards. Just four years later, in 1858, he bought the yard and renamed the business Edward James

Harland and Company. He hired Gustav W. Wolff (1834-1913), a former personal assistant to Mr. Hickson, to work for him. Wolff's uncle, Gustave Schwabe, was a well-known and very wealthy Liverpool merchant, and was extremely well connected in the Hamburg, Germany merchant community. Wolff alerted Schwabe to the business opportunity with Harland, Schwabe offered Harland money to grow his business if he would take on Wolff as a partner, and Harland and Wolff was officially formed in 1861. Between them, the two men exploited their wealthy contacts to ensure a steady stream of orders and to make the firm a success. The most crucial partnership was established with the White Star Line, whose entire fleet of ocean liners was manufactured by Harland and Wolff. Also of note is that they received orders during the Civil War from the Confederate States of America, who bought fast steamers to evade the Union blockade.

In 1862, Harland hired a young clerk by the name of William Pirrie, an extremely persuasive salesman and an adept financial operator. He quickly rose through the ranks, was named to the board of directors in 1874, and soon thereafter became its third partner.



The four partners in Harland and Wolff from 1876-85 (left to right) G.W. Wolff, W.H. Wilson, W.J. Pirrie and Edward J. Harland.

The three men worked as a team. Harland was the inventive engineering visionary who won patents for the company. His greatest contributions came when Harland and Wolff designed the SS Venetian for the Bibby line. For its day, it was revolutionary, as its decks were made of steel, not wood, and the hull of the ship was a deep square shape instead of the V-shaped hulls of earlier vessels. Because of the inherent strength of the design, ships could be built

longer in proportion to their width, leading to increased capacity in the holds of the ships, and increased profits for their owners.

Gustav Wolff, the second partner, was known as the practical engineer who designed and built the ships, while Pirrie negotiated the orders and handled the finances. In the 1880's, Harland was asked how he managed the company, and he modestly responded, "Well, Wolff designs the ships, Pirrie sells them, and I smoke the firm's cigars."

In 1880, the company decided to expand further and build their own engine works. After that, Harland began having less involvement in the running of the shipyard, and in 1889 retired from the daily workings of the business. In 1885, he was granted knighthood and a baronetcy. Civic duties included being a Belfast harbor commissioner, serving as Mayor of Belfast for two terms (1885 and 1886), and then as a Member of Parliament for Belfast North until his death in 1895.



Harland was a family man, having been married in 1860 to Rosa Matilda Wann of Vermont, Belfast, the daughter of Thomas Wann, a stockbroker and insurance agent. They were blessed with three sons and a daughter. A strict Presbyterian, he gave all of his new hires and apprentices a New Testament with their names written inside, and a verse of scripture found in Ecclesiastes 12: "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth."

He and his wife built a large home in the nearby countryside, and he also built a large children's home for families of men that would lose their lives in shipbuilding. None of his sons followed their father in the shipbuilding trade, and he willed his entire estate to his daughter.

Edward Harlan's father, Dr. William Harland, was said to have a great lust for life. One of his prevailing maxims was, "What you have the will to do, do with all your might!" Also, "This is a glorious world! I should like to be here 100 years,

and then there might be some chance of doing some good."

Though to my knowledge, Sir Edward Harlan's family line has never been traced to the same line as George, Michael and Thomas Harland, I'll bet you know some Harlans who have a lot in common with Harland's work ethic, his passion for perfection, fortitude and ambition, strong faith, and service to his community!

(Parts of this article were drawn from a previous newsletter article, "Visit to Harland-Wolff Shipyard", No. 8, Winter 1994)

(Other sources include: Scarborough Maritime Heritage Centre, Wikipedia, Alchetron, Encyclopedia Titanic, Geni.com, Grace's Guide to British Industrial History, and [Titanic - The Tragic Story of the Ill-Fated Ocean Liner](#) by Rupert Matthews.)

*Submitted by Dorothy Sperry*

## **HARLANS SAMPLE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH ELIXIR ON FAMILY TOUR**

While on the Harlan Family Tour to England and Ireland, various family members had the opportunity to try a beverage, touted by 100-year-old Doris Olive Netting of Plymouth, England as the secret to her longevity. Doris started partaking of the Irish elixir in her 30's as a way to get extra iron into her diet, as it was advertised to contain iron and to be "Good for You". Doris is still going strong, and her granddaughter says she is "remarkable." On her recent 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, she decorated her nursing home room with branded balloons and a life-sized toucan, received a telegram from the Queen, enjoyed a personalized gift basket sent to her by the makers of the health-promoting liquid, and toasted the occasion with another mini bottle of her favorite beverage. And in case you haven't guessed it yet, we're talking about GUINNESS beer, established in 1759, and sold worldwide to this day! ☺

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## **GENEALOGY CORNER**

In 1871, Dr. Brewster Higley moved from Indiana to Smith County, Kansas, under the Homestead Act. He lived in a small cabin near West Beaver Creek. He was so inspired by his new surroundings that he decided to create a poem in praise of the prairie. Thus, the lyrics to "Home on the Range" were originally published as a poem in the *Smith County Pioneer* in 1872 under the title "My Western Home".

The music was later added by Daniel E. Kelley (1808–1905), a carpenter and friend of Dr. Higley. The song was eventually adopted by ranchers, cowboys, and other western settlers and spread across the United States in various forms. In 1925, the song was arranged as sheet music by Texas composer David W.



Guion (1892–1981), who occasionally was credited as the composer. The song has since gone by a number of names, the most common being "Home on the Range". It was officially adopted as the state song of Kansas on June 30, 1947, and is commonly regarded as the unofficial anthem of the American West. (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

Laura Glover Kaiser's 2nd great grandmother Mary Eulalia (Lulu) Harlan #4762 was the wife of Daniel Kelley, who wrote the music to the song *Home on the Range*. Mary Eulalia Harlan is #4762; her father John Carter Harlan #1724 descends from George #3.

Cynthia Rhoades  
Director of Genealogy

Laura writes, "My family moved from the LA area in the early 1960's to Kansas. Learning this about my family history makes me feel like we moved "back home". I am SO thrilled to be a part of this family and equally thrilled to discover all the wonderful research that you and previous relatives have done. What a blessing!!"